Chicago Historical Society

1920-1921

Chicago Historical
Society

Rec Miss M. Ilvaine
(Curator)

May 5th, 1920.

Chicago Historical Society,
Dearborn Avenue & Ontario Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Attention of Miss McIlvaine, Curator.

Dear Miss McIlvaine:-

If my memory serves me right, I had the pleasure of meeting you at one of the Conventions of the American Association of Museums two or three years ago. It was a great pleasure to learn that your organization had acquired the Gunther Collection. The American Numismatic Society is particularly interested because we understand that there are included in this collection several Indian Peace medals, and we were unable to obtain any information regarding them from Mr. Gunther in his life time. For several years we have been gathering data regarding these pieces, and I am now writing to ask that when they come to light, you will let me have the information for which we have been waiting so long.

In talking with Mr. T. E. Leon of your city, who is doubtless well known to you, it developed that there was a rumor that certain parts of the collection might be sold. While I am skeptical as to the truth of this report, may I say that we should greatly appreciate it, should the Indian Peace medals be among the things of which disposal might be made, that you give us an opportunity to acquire part or all of these medals. I should be very glad to have you give me any further information in your power, and if you plan to attend the Convention of the American Federation at New York or the American Museum Association at Washington, may I extend a cordial invitation to you to visit our Museum, and let me show you our collection. I am enclosing two prints which show the obverses and reverses of several of the Peace medals.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary.

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FOUNDED 1856
DEARBORN AND WEST ONTARIO STREETS
TELEPHONE SUPERIOR 401

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May 15, 1920.

Mr. Sydney P. Noe,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway near 155th St.,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Miss McIlvaine requests me to advise you that your letter of May 5, is duly received, and that she trusts you will pardon her in not replying personally to it at this time as the Gunther Collection occupies her entire attention.

She expects to attend the American Association of Museums in Washington and will be glad to give you any information she can in re the Indian medals.

Yours very truly,

Elizabeth Bahl

for Librarian.

December 11th, 1920

Clarence A. Burley, Esq.
Pres. Chicago Historical Society
Dearborn & West Ontario Streets
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

May I respectfully enquire if it would be possible for me to secure photographs of the Indian Peace medals in the Gunther Collection? This Society is contemplating writing an article concerning them and I am anxious to obtain reproductions of all that are known. I should be very glad to bear the expense of having these photographs made, up to a reasonable limit.

If a photograph is possible at the present time, may I ask that you safeguard having them made the exact size of the original.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary

HPH/E

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December Twenty First
1,9 2 0.

Mr Sydney Noe,
Secretary,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York.

Dear Mr Noe:

We shall be pleased to photograph the two peace medals that are in the Gunther Collection now belonging to this Society and I enclose an application blank for your signature.

Your very truly,

Caroline M. McIlvaine

Librarian.

Dupl. to be kept by applicant

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEARBORN AVENUE AND ONTARIO STREET

The undersigned requests the privilege of having ~~copies~~ photographs of the ~~following portraits, views or manuscripts,~~ medals* from the collections of the Chicago Historical Society, for publication, and hereby agrees to credit the Society with the ownership of the originals in each and every case.† to deposit all negatives together with a copy of each publication in the archives of the Society; and to pay for such negatives, and photographs and the making of such mss. copies on delivery‡:

Two Indian Peace Medals

To be used for the purpose specified below:

Publication in a list of such medals

Signature The American Numismatic Society

Address Broadway at 156th Street, New York

Date Dec.24, 1920

*Cross out anything not desired.

†By publishing in the caption of each and every such reproduction the words, "Original owned by Chicago Historical Society."

‡Non-residents are required to pay in advance.

N. B. All copying is required to be done in the Society's Building.

The Society will appreciate the courtesy if photographs, half-tone cuts, etc., are donated after they are no longer needed.

CAROLINE M. McILVAINE,
Librarian.

December 24th, 1920

Miss Caroline M. McIlvaine
Librarian, Chicago Historical Society
Dearborn & West Ontario Streets, Chicago.

Dear Miss McIlvaine:

In response to your letter of December 21st, I enclose herewith the application you desire.

You do not mention the cost of having these photographs made or I should include payment, but on presentation of your bill, it will be honoured.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SPM/E
Enc.

January 26th, 1921

Charles A. Burley, Esq.
Pres. Chicago Historical Society
Dearborn & West Ontario Streets
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

The photographs of the Sudlian Peace Medals which you were having made for me have not yet arrived, and I am wondering whether they can have been lost in the post. If they are in course of preparation, please forgive my having troubled you.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SPM/E

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1856
DEARBORN AND WEST ONTARIO STREETS
TELEPHONE SUPERIOR 401

January 31
1921

Mr Sydney P. Noe,
American Numismatic Society,
New York.

Dear Mr Noe:-

I am very sorry that there should have been any delay in getting to you the photographs of the Indian Peace Medals.

They were photographed and put on my desk without proper notation and until I received your letter which had been sent to Mr Burley our President I did not understand just where they were to be sent.

Sincerely,

Caroline M. McIlvaine

T. Librarian.

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105 W. MONROE STREET
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February 5th, 1931

Miss Caroline M. McIlvaine
Chicago Historical Society
Dearborn & West Ontario Sts.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Miss McIlvaine:

I have your letter of January 31st as well as the photograph of which you write. Thank you very much.

I am enclosing two prints of other Indian Peace medals because in a recent catalogue I noted a reference to the lion and the wolf medal, which I have marked with a cross, as being in your collection.

The other illustrations will give you an idea of various types of Indian Peace Medals; and if you could give me a brief statement regarding their number, I should much appreciate it. If you are in doubt about any of them, you might refer to Morin's Les Médailles décernées aux Indiens d'Amérique.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SPE/E
Encs.

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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March 4th, 1921.

Mr. Sydney P. Noe,
Secretary, American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Noe:

Your letter written in February concerning the Indian medals is at hand and I thank you for enclosing the photographs. The medal you checked is in our collection and several others which I am listing below. As we have not Morin's book and have not been able to get in touch with one, it is impossible to refer to it.

Millard Fillimore medal by E. Ellis. See Loubat, Plate 66.

Franklin Pierce "Piece and Friendship" medal by E. Ellis. See Loubat, Plate 67.

Martin Van Buren "Peace and Friendship" medal by Furst, 1837. Note: Not the same as one in Loubat.

George III medal; Obverse: Bust of Geo. III, in profile, inscribed "Goergius III Dei Gratia;" Reverse: Seal of Great Britian.

William and Mary medal, "given to O-puck-e-wa (Grasshopper), a Chippewa at the commencement of the French war by the English commander in chief at or near New York." Note: This is the information attached to the medal. It also adds "The only one in the possession of the Indians of this country of so old a date." This could not be during the French and Indian War, as the date would be too early if it William and Mary.

Union Fur Company - B. Mead - 1844 - (and what appears to be St. Louis follows after the date). These words on the obverse with a profile bust of Mead in relief; Reverse: "Peace and Friendship."

The enclosed tracings may be of interest and will give the exact size of the above medals.

Yours very truly,

Caroline M. McIlvaine

Librarian.

March 8th, 1921

Miss Caroline M. McIlvaine
Chicago Historical Society
Dearborn & West Ontario Streets
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Miss McIlvaine:

Thank you for your letter of March 4th and for the rubbings of the Indian Peace Medals which you enclosed. They did help very considerably in identifying the pieces which you described.

The one which you mention as having been listed a William and Mary medal is the marriage medal of George III and Queen Charlotte. This medal is known to have been given to the Indians, but your record of its having been given to 'Grasshopper' substantiates this statement.

May I trouble you at your convenience to have a photograph of the Union Fur Company medal made at my expense? Kindly caution the photographer to be sure to get the actual size of the medal on his plate.

Thank you very much for all the trouble you have taken in getting this information to me. I appreciate your co-operation very much.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SPF/E